

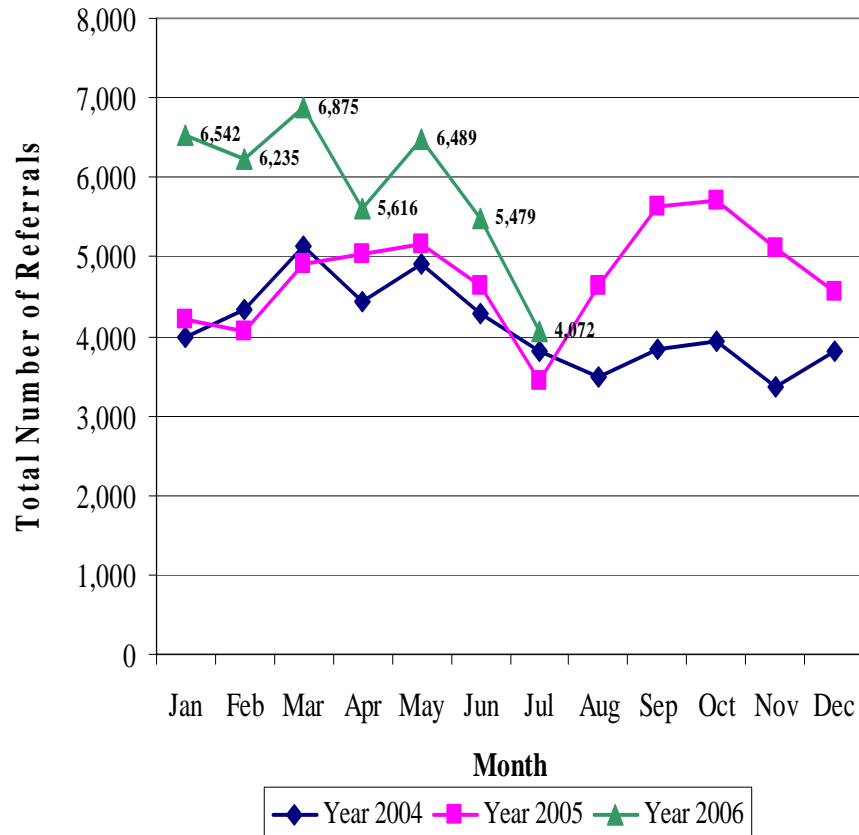
# NJ Department of Children and Families

*Legislative Update*  
*October 2006*

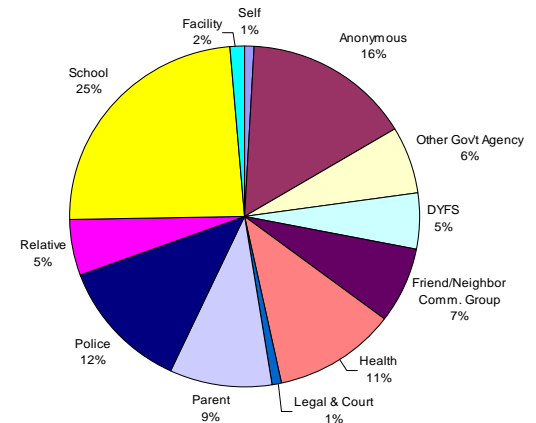
# Initial Response

**2006 Brought Historic Surge in Reporting, Particularly from Schools & Medical Sources**

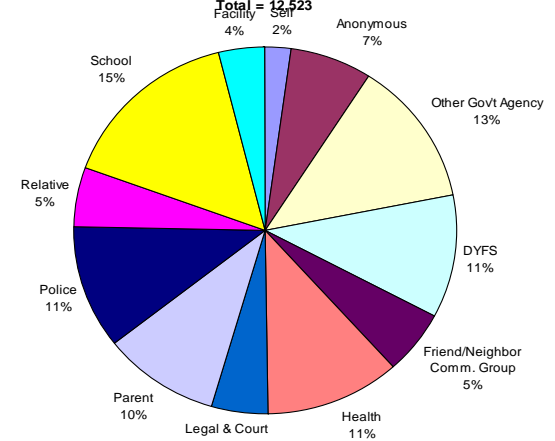
New Jersey Department of Children & Families  
Assignments to All Offices  
Child Protective Referrals & Family Service Requests  
Source: SIS



Source of Child Protective Referrals  
(12 Months - Aug 05 thru July 06)  
Total = 54,457



Source of Requests for Family Services  
(12 Months - Aug 05 thru July 06)  
Total = 12,523



# Caseloads

## *Investing in Caseload Carrying Staff to Achieve Safety, Well-Being & Permanency for Children in Child Welfare*

### Initial Standards

*Average per office by type of staff*

#### Intake Staff

*15 families*

*10 new referrals*

#### Permanency Staff

*15 families*

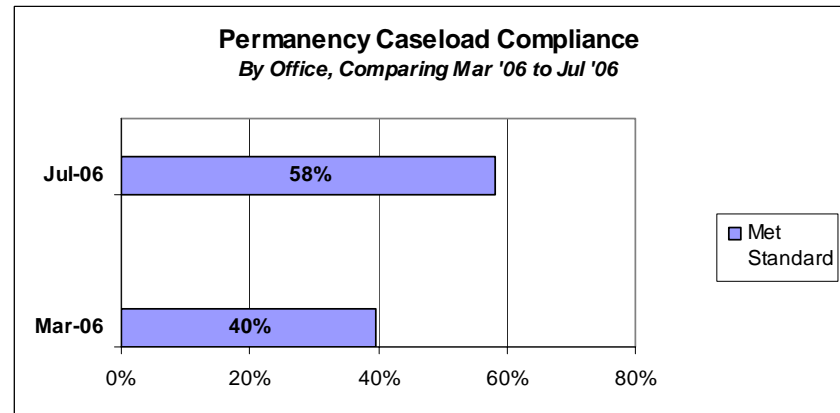
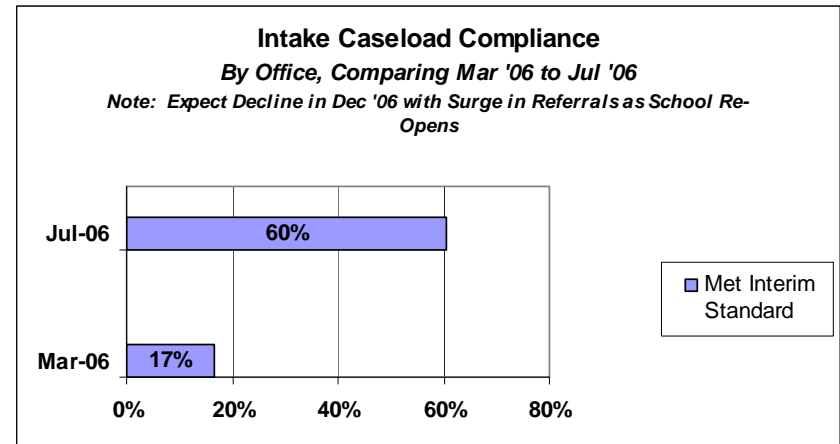
*10 children in out of home placement*

### Targets:

#### By December 2006 of 44 DYFS Field Offices

*42% of offices meet intake standards*

*60% of offices meet permanency standards*



# Training

## *Building Capacity & Focusing on the Fundamentals Based on National Best Practice*



### Public Training Academy

- **Pre-Service Training**  
*176 hours of training (32 classroom days / 20 field instruction days). Increased capacity to four new classes per month, up to 25 new staff per class (eliminates waiting, start w/ 2 weeks)*  
*New staff placed in field training units in offices with field training supervisors who coordinate with training academy. Classroom training offered throughout the state to minimize travel*
- **Supervisory Practices in Child Welfare**  
*88 hours of training (16 classroom days) Completely revised after review of more than 35 states & focus groups with selected high performing NJ supervisors.*  
*Begins October 2006. Satisfies mandate that all newly promoted supervisors complete 40 hours of training within 3 months of new appointment.*
- **Investigator Training: First Responders in Child Welfare**  
*33 hours of training (6 classroom days) Completely revised incorporating best practices. Began pilot delivery in Sept 2006 with group of supervisors. Conducting focus groups with supervisors, revising, and begin sequenced roll-out for all staff, including new staff (for all pre-service classes which began in Sept 2006).*

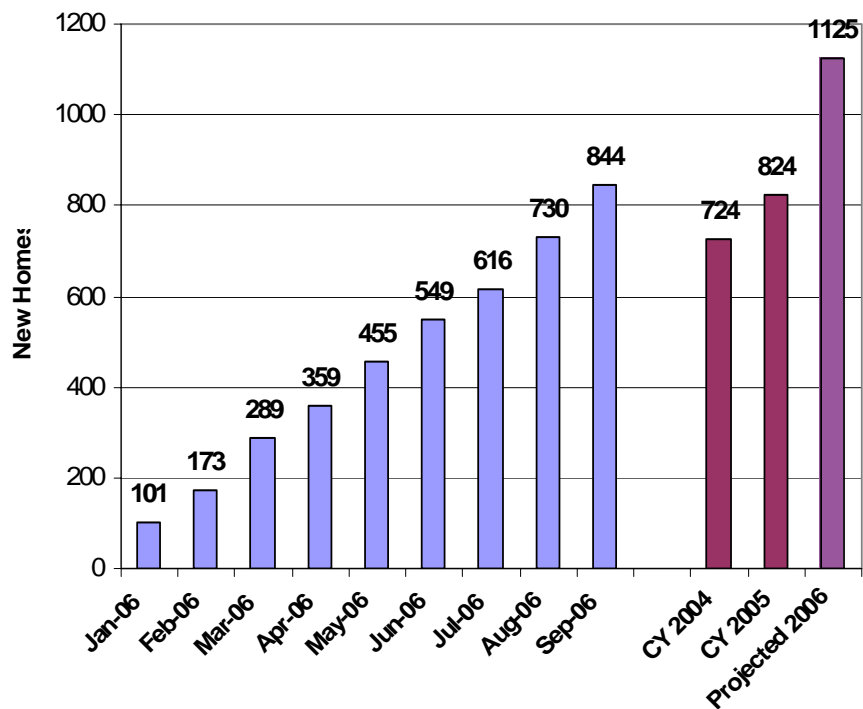
### Public/Private Partnerships

- **New Jersey Partnership for Public Child Welfare**  
*RFP issued fall 2006 targeting service delivery in April 2007.*  
*Will help provide 20 hours in-service training to all DYFS supervisors and caseworkers.*
- **Public Child Welfare Intensive Weekend Master Program (23 participants)**  
*The program is an intensive weekend program where current DYFS employees earn their MSW degree within three years and agree to continue their work at DYFS for another two years upon receiving their degree.*
- **The Baccalaureate Child Welfare Education Program (73 participants)**  
*College seniors majoring in social work, receive a stipend, attend special classes geared toward child welfare and participate in a yearlong internship at DYFS, followed by a 2 year DYFS work commitment.*
- **Montclair State University Child Advocacy Certification Program (25 participants)**  
*In-service 15 credit certificate program geared to public child welfare work.*
- **Concurrent Planning Training: A Partnership with Rutgers' School of Social Work**  
*Mandatory in-service training for all field staff. 1700 DYFS staff have already completed. Classes offered throughout the state. Focuses on achieving permanency for children who enter out of home placement.*

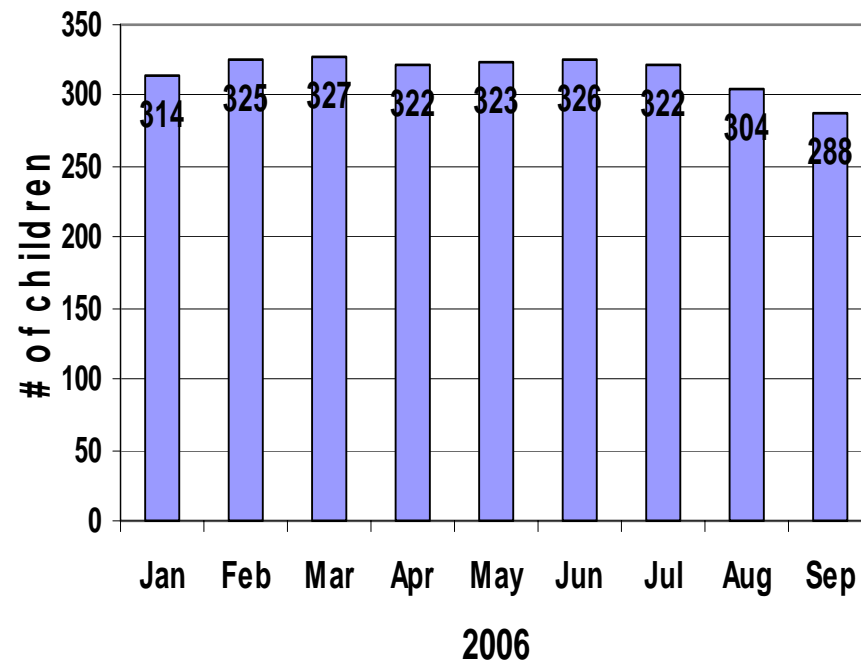
# Placements

## *Building In-State Capacity & Tracking Out-of-State Use*

**Newly Licensed Foster & Adoptive Families**  
*Cumulative Totals*



**DCBHS Authorized Out of State Placements**  
*as of the first of each month*

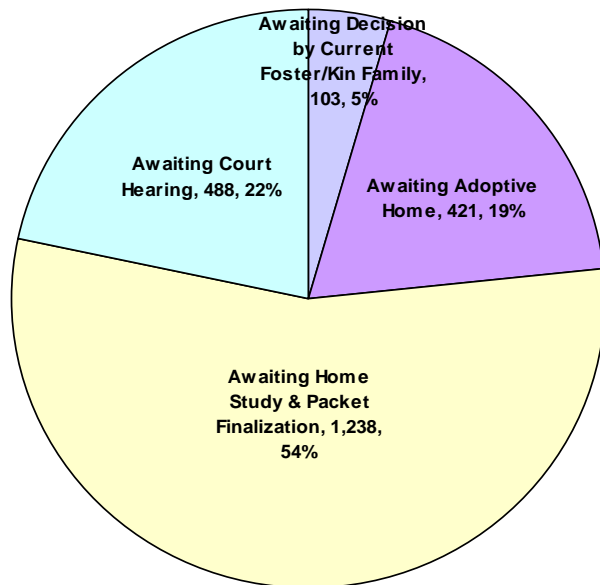


# Adoptions

## Re-Building Capacity to Find Permanent Homes

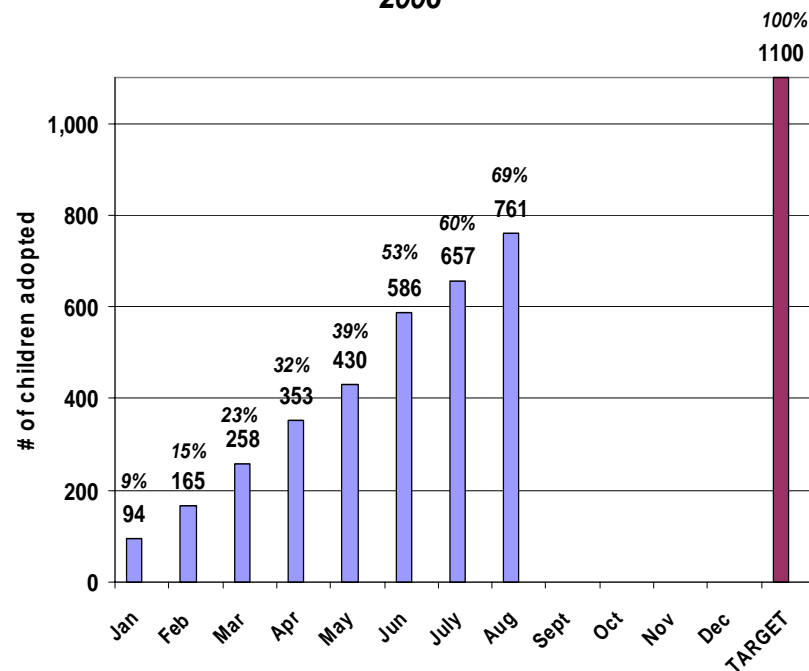
### Legally Free Children Awaiting Adoption

as of July 2006 TOTAL = 2025



### Adoptions Finalized

2006



Note: Adoption #s each month subject to change & increase due to delayed data entry